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OLC 70-0491

20 July 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Minority Leader Gerald Ford re the  
Impeachment Resolutions on Justice Douglas

1. Mr. John Warner and I met with Mr. Ford and advised him of the inquiry we had received from the House Judiciary Committee in connection with House Resolution 920 and other resolutions calling for the impeachment of Associate Justice William O. Douglas. We showed Mr. Ford the letter from Chairman Celler of 22 June 1970 and the Director's reply of 15 July 1970. We also showed him Mr. Houston's classified memorandum dated 10 July 1970.

2. We told Mr. Ford that the Director had wanted us to inform him of our dealings with the subcommittee staff as a matter for his information. Mr. Ford was most appreciative. He was extremely pressed for time because of action before the floor of the House and asked if we could leave the memorandum with him so that he might check it against the statement he had made on the floor of the House with regard to Justice Douglas. We told Mr. Ford we were sure there would be no problem on this but felt we should have the Director's approval. Mr. Ford assured us that he would respect the classified nature of the memorandum.

3. We advised Mr. Ford that the Committee staff felt that our letter was not fully responsive and explained that we could not be more responsive in an unclassified communication. We also advised him that the Committee staff had asked that we turn our classified memorandum over to them although they gave us no assurances that they would not disclose the contents of the memorandum. We indicated that we planned to stand with the letter to the Chairman unless we got assurances to respect the classification of the detailed memorandum. Mr. Ford seemed to have no quarrel whatsoever with this position. He indicated to us that he was not at all happy with the subcommittee staff personnel saying that he had felt that adversary proceedings counsel should have been provided.

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4. Our discussion with Mr. Ford was reported to the Director who said he had no problem with our making the memorandum available to him. He also agreed that we should advise the subcommittee counsel that we felt the Director's letter was a reasonable response and that we would be willing to make the classified memorandum available if the subcommittee would agree to respect its security classification.

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[Redacted]  
Acting Legislative Counsel

Distribution:

Orig. - Subj.

1 - OGC

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OLC/[Redacted] (21 July 1970)

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TRANSMITTAL SLIP		DATE
TO: <i>DCI</i>		
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	
REMARKS:		
<p><i>I believe [redacted]</i>  <i>[redacted] briefed you</i>  <i>fully on this</i>  <i>but thought</i>  <i>you might want</i>  <i>to take a look</i>  <i>at it following</i>  <i>your call from</i>  <i>Harkin - You</i></p>		
FROM: <i>OLC</i>		
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	EXTENSION

FORM NO. 241  
1 FEB 55

REPLACES FORM 36-8  
WHICH MAY BE USED.

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